

FEB 1949

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GENERAL

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1. Austrian security declaration suggested--US Legation Vienna suggests that, because the USSR is extremely sensitive concerning possible Austrian incorporation into the western security system, no move should be made during current negotiations for the Austrian treaty to include Austria in the Atlantic Pact. The Legation feels, however, that Austria must eventually be clearly incorporated into the western security system and suggests, therefore, a gradual integration, commencing with a tripartite declaration on Austrian security when occupation troops are withdrawn.

EUROPE

2. USSR: Soviet motives in arrest of US writer--US Embassy Moscow suggests that the arrest of Anna Louise Strong may have been prompted by Kremlin disapproval of her recent articles on China, which emphasize the "independence" of Mao Tse-tung and the Chinese Communists. The Embassy points out that Miss Strong has been unable to obtain a Soviet exit visa to go to China and that, because of her arrest as a US spy, she cannot be received by the Chinese or Satellite Communists following her release. The Embassy warns that the incident may be a deliberate plot but indicates that Miss Strong's views have been becoming increasingly critical of the USSR because of her difficulties in maintaining personal contacts.

NEAR EAST-AFRICA

3. INDIA: Reaction to alleged US statements concerning Japan--US Ambassador Henderson reports concern over Indian press accounts of alleged statements in a Tokyo press conference by "a high US military authority," who reportedly implied

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that the US has no moral obligation to protect the Japanese people from Soviet domination and that US forces might soon be withdrawn from Japan. According to Henderson, the Indians find a striking contrast between this apparent willingness to permit the USSR to take over Asian peoples and the reiterated determination of the US to defend European peoples from Soviet aggression. Henderson requests authority to inform the Indian Government that the US has made no decision to withdraw its forces from Japan and would not make such a decision without entering into full consultation with other interested powers.

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THE AMERICAS

4. ARGENTINA: Economic-political crisis remains serious--
The US Military Attache in Buenos Aires reports that the current economic-political crisis remains tense and indicates that although President Peron will probably be retained, some of his close political associates will be forced out of office. The MA and Charge Ray both report that the Army is exerting pressure on Peron to force Senora Peron to disassociate herself from the Government and that Peron does not know how to deal with the situation which has developed from acute economic and labor problems.

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